

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Helmut Jerg et al.  
Application Number: 10/562,105  
Filing Date: 12/22/2005  
Group Art Unit: 3743  
Examiner: Stephen Michael Gravini  
Title: METHOD FOR OPERATING A DEVICE WITH AT LEAST ONE PARTIAL PROGRAMME STEP OF DRYING

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE D**  
**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 22, 2010, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

**I. Claims 9-12 and 16-18**

The Office Action rejects claims 9-12 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over US Patent No. 5,343,632 to Dinh (hereinafter “Dinh”). For the reasons set forth below, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 9 is directed to a method for operating a home appliance. Claim 9 recites subjecting items retained in the home appliance to a drying step after the items have undergone a treatment step, as a result of which moisture remains on the items. Claim 9 recites that the step of drying includes